

WATER QUALITY REPORT

FOR BLOOMINGTON, MN • 2010 TEST RESULTS



JUNE 2011

INSIDE

- WQR2. Where does your tap water come from?
- WQR3. FAQs.
- WQR4. 2010 Water quality results.

ENSURING YOUR SAFETY

At the City of Bloomington, our goal is to provide you with high-quality, safe, reliable drinking water that meets every federal and state water quality requirement. This report contains information about the sources, treatment process and history of our water system. Page WQR4 provides the results of water quality monitoring on Bloomington’s water sources from January 1 to December 31, 2010, by the Minnesota Department of Health, the city of Minneapolis and our own laboratories. We also answer common questions people have about our water. This report is meant to advance your understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

CITY ACTS QUICKLY DRINKING WATER CONTAMINANT ELIMINATED

Bloomington closely monitors the public water supply at the Sam Hobbs Water Treatment Plant, the 82nd Street Reservoirs and 30 distribution sites throughout the city. Sites are sampled by Utility staff approximately once a week. William Lloyd/Tri-City Analytical Laboratory staff then analyze each sample for regulated and unregulated contaminants. On average, the laboratory performs more than 430 analyses on the public water supply per day, or more than 158,000 per year. This sampling rate meets and, in many instances, exceeds the requirements of the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

On Thursday, February 4, 2010, during the regular weekly analysis, laboratory staff noted that one chemical compound, methylene chloride, was above the maximum contaminant limit throughout the distribution system.

Traced to the water treatment plant, staff immediately shut off the feed from the water plant into the Bloomington water distribution system and switched to the Minneapolis water supply that is used to augment Bloomington’s water. City staff proceeded at once to contact

and consult with the MDH’s Drinking Water Protection Division.

The methylene chloride originated in a stripping product used by a contractor working at the plant on January 31. The contractor’s work was immediately suspended and after February 5, the majority of Bloomington’s distribution system did not have detectable levels of the chemical.

Certified test results showed the highest short-term exposure of methylene chloride to the public in the distribution system was 23 parts per billion (ppb); nowhere near the short-term health advisory limit of 10,000 ppb for a one-day exposure or 2,000 ppb per day for a 10-day exposure. As this level did not exceed the short-term exposure level, the MDH did not require a health advisory or “Do Not Drink Order.”

The public’s annual average exposure (average of four quarterly tests) for this event was 5.75 ppb, just slightly above the EPA maximum contaminant limit of 5.4 ppb. This regulatory violation required that the City notify the public. The formal Notice of Violation was posted in the *Sun Current* the week of February 22.



Maximum contaminant limits are based on lifetime exposure to a chemical and take into account treatment cost, benefits, and the ability of a public water system to detect and remove the contaminants using suitable treatment technologies. As applied to this event, a 150-pound person, drinking at least two liters of 5.4 ppb contaminated water per day for 70 years, has a one in one million chance of developing cancer.

After the plant was thoroughly cleaned and tested, the MDH confirmed levels of methylene chloride at the plant were well below accepted limits. On Thursday, February 18, just two weeks after detecting the incident, the plant was back in service.

For more information, call Public Works Director Karl Keel at 952-563-4581 or Utilities Superintendent Robert Cockriel at 952-563-8774.

GET INVOLVED

Public Works welcomes input on water quality issues. For information, contact Water Quality Supervisor Jon Eaton at 952-563-4501.

If you have questions about your water or need assistance, please give us a call or visit our website.

When you see **WEBSITE KEYWORDS** in this report, visit our website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us for more information.

Water Plant (24 hours a day)
952-563-4905
TTY (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., M-F)
952-563-8740

Este informe contiene información muy importante. Si necesita una traducción del mismo, sírvase llamar al 952-563-4944 V/TTY.

Bản báo cáo này có các thông tin rất quan trọng. Nếu quý vị cần bản dịch tiếng Việt, xin gọi số 952-563-4944 V/TTY.

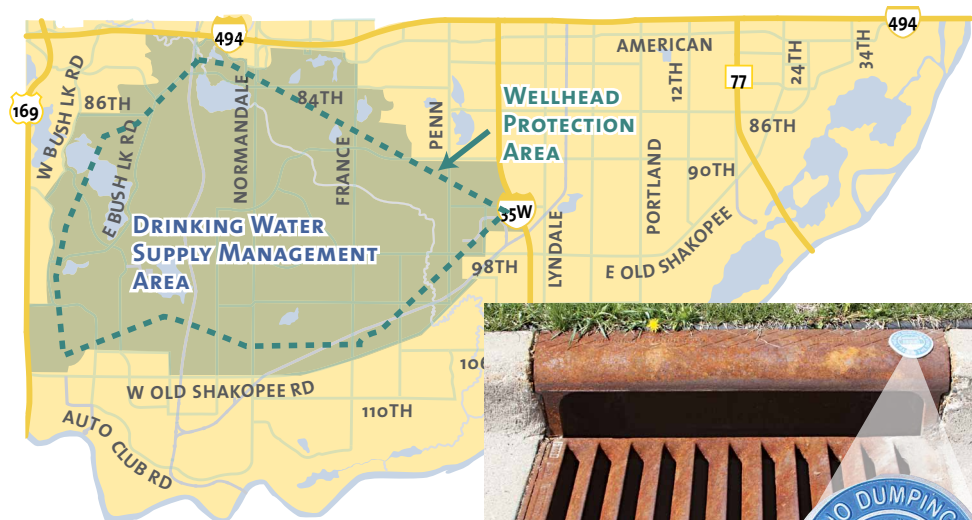
Warbixintaan waxaa ku jira macluumaad aad muhiim u ah. Haddii aad u baahan tahay in lagu turjumo, fadlan la xiriiir 952-563-4944 V/TTY.

PROTECTING OUR PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY EVERYONE BENEFITS FROM WELLHEAD PROTECTION

In its ongoing effort to protect the wellhead, Utilities labels all storm water catch basins within a 5,000 foot radius of the city’s six groundwater wells with storm drain markers. These markers, with the words “No dumping, only rain in the drain,” are displayed on both public and private storm sewer infrastructure inlets within the earmarked area, see map right, to remind people to help protect our community’s valuable drinking water resource.

Wellhead protection prevents contaminants from entering the area that contributes water to the public water supply. The areas are determined by geologic and hydrologic criteria such as the physical characteristics of the aquifer and the effects that pumping has on the rate and direction of groundwater movement. A management plan identifies potential sources of groundwater contamination, monitors for the presence of specific contaminants, and manages existing and future land and water uses that pose a threat to groundwater quality.

The *Minnesota Groundwater Protection Act of 1989* granted the



Commissioner of Health authority to develop wellhead protection measures for wells serving public water supplies; this rule does not apply to private wells. This action was in response to the 1986 amendment of the federal *Safe Drinking Water Act* in which states are required to implement wellhead protection programs for public water supply wells.

While a wellhead protection plan gives owners of public water supply wells a useful “tool” for providing a safe drinking water supply to their customers, the long-term goals are

beneficial to all residents of Minnesota. These goals reduce the need for costly treatment facilities, new wells and removal of contaminants from groundwater.

If you would like more information about wellhead protection, contact Glen Gerads at 952-563-8775 or the Minnesota Department of Health Source Water Protection Unit at 651-201-4700.